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## FORESTRY BEST UNDER GOVERNMENT CONTROL

In the following correspondence Superintendent Hosmer submits to Governor Carter reasons why the Hawaiian system of forest reserves should be entirely under Government control, and then at the Governor's request outlines a method whereby such Government control may best be exercised for the benefit of both the Territory and private owners who surrender lands for forestry purposes. Governor Carter sets the seal of his approval to the whole scheme as proposed by the Superintendent of Forestry. The communications are here printed in full:

Oct. 29th, 1904.  
Honorable George R. Carter, Governor of the Territory of Hawaii, Honolulu, T. H.

Sir:—Numerous inquiries are received by this division concerning the forest policy of the administration. It is claimed that until it is more definitely known what action is likely to be taken, private owners are unwilling to go to the expense of preparing maps and statements in regard to surrendering their lands for forest reserves.

As it is very desirable that these matters be clearly understood, I have prepared a statement of what from conversations and correspondence with yourself, I understand to be the attitude of the administration on the essential features of this question. If this meets with your approval I respectfully request that you so inform me and that you allow the correspondence to be made public.

The essential points in the forest policy of the present administration may be thus summarized:

First: For the continued welfare and development of the agricultural interests of this Territory, on which the prosperity of the country depends, it is essential that an ample water supply be assured.

Second: To accomplish this end through the protection of the watersheds and the conservation of the rainfall, forest reserves are necessary and essential.

Third: The forest reserves should include all land which cannot be economically used for purposes other than forest, as well as such other areas as are needed to protect the water supply of permanent existing industries.

Fourth: In negotiations with the Government for a proposed forest reserve, if the owner of the forest land is largely and primarily benefited by the reservation, the Government has then the right to expect most liberal terms; especially should this be the case when the available areas of Government land in that neighborhood are to be set aside for forest reserves.

Fifth: In setting apart land for forest reserves each case must be decided on its own merits.

Sixth: Under the interpretation of the Organic Act by the legal adviser of the administration, leases of public land cannot be extended, and all Government lands that are sold outright or leased must be put up at public auction.

Seventh: The administration is willing to consider exchanges of land, fee for fee, or lease for lease, but all such exchanges must be on a basis of value, not of acreage.

Eighth: It is the policy of the administration not to exchange large areas of wild land for town lots or vice versa.

Very respectfully,  
(Signed) **RALPH S. HOSMER,**  
Superintendent of Forestry.

Executive Chamber, Honolulu, Hawaii, Oct. 31, 1904.

Ralph S. Hosmer, Superintendent of Forestry, Territory of Hawaii.

Dear Sir:—Your letter of October 29th sets forth clearly and concisely the essential points of the forestry policy of this administration, and I heartily approve of making it public. One of the questions that has arisen is that the owners of forest land in some cases feel that under their own control they are more certain that reservation will be maintained for all time to come, and it seems to me that your board would do well to make clearer the advantages in turning such

land over to the care of your bureau of the Government.

Very sincerely yours,  
(Signed) **G. R. CARTER,**  
Governor.

Oct. 31, 1904.  
Honorable George R. Carter, Governor of the Territory of Hawaii, Honolulu, T. H.

Sir:—I have the honor to acknowledge your letter of this morning, relative to the forest policy of the administration. In accordance with your suggestion, I have drawn up the following statement of some of the reasons why the board feels that the forest reserves can be better administered under Government than under private control.

First: It is provided by law that the direction and control of the forest reserves shall be in the hands of a trained man, a professional forester, whose sole duty it is to care for the forest interests of the Territory. It is only reasonable to expect that a man so trained and equipped is better fitted to undertake this work than are those who are not foresters by profession and whose main interests lie in other directions.

Second: By bringing the management of the forest reserves under one central authority their administration is simplified and made vastly more effective; the carrying out of a definite policy is made possible—a task difficult if not insurmountable were a number of diverse, not to say conflicting, interests involved; and, by being a department of the Government, rules and regulations can be enforced, which if framed by individuals could not be made binding.

Third: A considerable part of the lands within the limits of the proposed forest reserves is now in private ownership and subject to the shifting opinions of various individuals. It is believed that the example set by the Government and the large owners in turning their forest lands into reserves, will have no small effect in causing the other owners to do likewise, thus insuring the extension of the reserves.

over larger areas and the protection of the forest in places where it might not otherwise be possible.

Fourth: While the forest reserves are created primarily for the protection of the important watersheds, they may, without detriment to this end, be made to serve other useful purposes as well, if properly managed under competent supervision, by a permanent staff. To meet the objection that the present owner would lose a possible source of revenue by surrendering land which could be so used, a clause could be inserted in the deeds of transfer for surrender, providing that the owner of the land receive a stated share of any revenue so derived, and reserving to him the right to extend such operations, provided always that the work be undertaken and carried on only with the approval and under the supervision of the Superintendent of Forestry. In the unlikely event of a change in the forest policy of the Territory, the private owner can fully protect himself by the insertion in the deed of a clause stipulating that if the land be subsequently used for purposes other than as a forest reserve, that it thereupon revert to its original owner. Restrictions of this character will be agreed to by the board.

Fifth: Under Government control a permanent service can be built up, composed of men trained in forest work, who beside being well equipped for their routine duties, could also undertake work of general though indirect benefit, such as the planting of waste, or barren areas, which because of its character or because of requiring a considerable time for completion, is not likely to be done by individuals.

Sixth: Forestry as a national policy has been practiced for over a century in European countries. In the United States its adoption is more recent but today it is as firmly entrenched as a policy, as it is in Europe. Within the last fifteen years a marked change of public opinion has taken place throughout the country. From being regarded as the hobby of a few visionary enthusiasts, forestry has become a definite and settled policy, not alone of the Federal Government but also of a number of the individual states, and one which is supported by annually increasing appropriations. The present attitude in regard to forestry was well expressed by President Roosevelt, when, in his first message to Congress,

he said: "The forest and water problems are perhaps the most vital internal questions of the United States." While there may be setbacks in the forestry movement, forestry as a whole is too important and vital a question to be put aside. This is perhaps even more true in Hawaii than on the mainland, because with us the most important industries are as has already been pointed out, dependent upon the forests. There exists in this Territory a strong public sentiment for forestry, created and fostered by the leading and most influential men. With such backing the permanence of this Territory's forest policy is practically assured.

Very respectfully,  
(Signed) **RALPH S. HOSMER,**  
Superintendent of Forestry.

October 31, 1904.  
Ralph S. Hosmer, Esq., Superintendent of Forestry, Territory of Hawaii.

Dear Sir:—May I acknowledge yours of even date, in which you bring out some very good reasons why the forest reserves can be better administered under Government control than under private. In this I agree with you, and I believe the publication of this correspondence will be of benefit to all.

Very sincerely yours,  
(Signed) **G. R. CARTER,**  
Governor.

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Copies now on sale at all book stores of the Hawaiian Forester and Agriculturist, a monthly magazine of forestry, entomology and agriculture, issued under the direction of the Board of Commissioners of Agriculture and Forestry. Price 10 cents a copy, \$1.00 per year by mail to any address. Subscriptions received at the Gazette office.

Hoax—"They say the Sultan of Turkey scares his wives nearly to death." Joak—"Yes; I've always heard that he was a harem-scarem sort of fellow." Philadelphia Record.

## Underwood Typewriter Gets Grand Prize at St. Louis

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